**NOCARDIOSIS**

**MOTIVATION AND BACKGROUND:**

Nocardiosis is an acute, subacute, or chronic infectious disease that occurs in cutaneous, pulmonary, and disseminated forms. There are several types of ncoardiosis and each of them manifests in its own way. [Primary cutaneous nocardiosis](http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1052944-overview) manifests as a cutaneous infection ([cellulitis](http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/214222-overview) or abscess), lymphocutaneous infection (sporotrichoid nocardiosis), or subcutaneous infection (actinomycetoma). Pleuropulmonary nocardiosis manifests as an acute, subacute, or chronic pneumonitis, usually in u Disseminated nocardiosis may involve any organ, but lesions in the brain or meninges are the most common ones.

What populations are affected??

People who have weakened immune disease.

**Epidemiology**

**Frequency**

**United States**

In the 1970s, a survey estimated the incidence of nocardiosis in the United States at 500-1000 cases per year (0.4 cases per 100,000 population per year). However, with the increased prevalence of impaired cell-mediated immunity since then, the incidence of nocardiosis has likely also increased.[[3]](javascript:showrefcontent('refrenceslayer');)

Clusters of nocardiosis have been described in hospitalized patients, related to contaminated fomites from construction or contaminated hands of staff.[[1]](javascript:showrefcontent('refrenceslayer');)

**International**

No reliable estimates on the international frequency of nocardiosis are available.

**Mortality/Morbidity**

Nocardiosis has a variable prognosis, depending on the site of infection, extent of infection, and underlying host factors.[[4]](javascript:showrefcontent('refrenceslayer');)

* Cure rates with appropriate therapy are approximately 100% in skin and soft-tissue infections.
* Ninety percent of pleuropulmonary infections can be cured with appropriate therapy.
* The cure rate in disseminated nocardiosis falls to 63%, while only half of patients with [brain abscess](http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/212946-overview) can be cured with therapy.

**Race**

Nocardiosis has no apparent racial predilection.

**Sex**

Nocardiosis is more common in males than in females, with a male-to-female ratio of 3:1. This difference may be related to exposure frequency rather than a gender difference in susceptibility.

**Age**

All ages are susceptible to nocardiosis. The mean age at diagnosis is in the fourth decade of life.

In the United States, it has been estimated that 500-1,000 new cases of nocardiosis infection occur every year. Approximately 60% of nocardiosis cases are associated with pre-existing immune compromise.

In addition, men have a greater risk of getting the infection than women; for every female who gets sick with nocardiosis, there are about 3 males who get the disease.

What are the effects of the disease??

<http://health.allrefer.com/health/nocardia-infection-info.html>

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/224123-overview>

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/22/6/891>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000679.htm>